

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-44 (cancelled)

Claim 45 (currently amended): A process for producing a coated material, comprising:
providing a coating agent comprising yeast cell wall fractions, as a primary constituent, consisting of cell residue of yeast which has been treated with enzymes and subsequently acidic solution, and water to remove internal soluble cell constituents; and
F₁ coating the surface of a solid material with the coating agent to provide a coating thereon.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The process of claim 45, wherein the coating provided on the surface of the solid material is non-sticky and prevents oxygen, other gases, and moisture from permeating the coated material.

Claim 47 (original): The process of claim 45, wherein the cell residue of yeast comprises glucan, mannan, and chitin.

Claim 48 (original): The process of claim 45, wherein the coating agent further comprises a plasticizer.

Claim 49 (original): The process of claim 45, wherein the solid material is selected from the group consisting of fine particles, granules, and tablets.

Claim 50 (original): The process of claim 45, wherein the solid material is selected from the group consisting of food products, food product materials, pharmaceuticals, enzymes, microorganisms, seeds, agrochemicals, fertilizers, fragrances, and pigments.

Claim 51 (original): A coated material produced by the process according to claim 45.

§2 Claim 52 (currently amended): A process for producing a coated material, comprising:
providing a coating agent comprising yeast cell wall fractions, as a primary constituent, consisting of cell residue of yeast which has been treated with enzymes and water to remove internal soluble cell constituents; and
coating the surface of a solid material with the coating agent to provide a coating thereon.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The process of claim 52, wherein the coating provided on the surface of the solid material is non-sticky and prevents oxygen, other gases, and moisture from permeating the coated material.

Claim 54 (original): The process of claim 52, wherein the cell residue of yeast comprises glucan, mannan, and chitin.

Claim 55 (original): The process of claim 52, wherein the coating agent further comprises a plasticizer.

Claim 56 (original): The process of claim 52, wherein the solid material is selected from the group consisting of fine particles, granules, and tablets.

Claim 57 (original): The process of claim 52, wherein the solid material is selected from the group consisting of food products, food product materials, pharmaceuticals, enzymes, microorganisms, seeds, agrochemicals, fertilizers, fragrances, and pigments.

Claim 58 (original): A coated material produced by the process according to claim 52.

¶3 Claim 59 (new): The process of claim 45, wherein the yeast has been treated with an enzyme that is specific for a yeast cell wall substance and an additional enzyme.


Claim 60 (new): The process of claim 59, wherein the additional enzyme is added externally.

Claim 61 (new): The process of claim 59, wherein the additional enzyme is added as part of an autolysis reaction.

Claim 62 (new): The process of claim 45, further wherein the yeast has been pre-treated to physically rupture the cell walls, then treated with enzymes and water.

Claim 63 (new): The process of claim 45, wherein the yeast has been solely treated with enzymes and subsequently acidic solution, and water to remove internal soluble cell constituents.

Claim 64 (new): A process for producing a coated material, consisting essentially of:

 treating a yeast cell with enzymes and water to remove internal soluble cell constituents,

thereby generating a coating agent comprising yeast cell wall fractions, as a primary constituent, consisting of cell residue of yeast; and

coating the surface of a solid material with the coating agent to provide a coating thereon.

Claim 65 (new): The process of claim 52, wherein the yeast has been treated with an enzyme that is specific for a yeast cell wall substance and an additional enzyme.

Claim 66 (new): The process of claim 65, wherein the additional enzyme is added externally.

Claim 67 (new): The process of claim 65, wherein the additional enzyme is added as part of an autolysis reaction.

Claim 68 (new): The process of claim 52, further wherein the yeast has been pre-treated to physically rupture the cell walls, then treated with enzymes and water.

Claim 69 (new): The process of claim 52, wherein the yeast has been solely treated with enzymes and water to remove internal soluble cell constituents.

Claim 70 (new): A process for producing a coated material, consisting essentially of:

treating a yeast cell with enzymes and subsequently acidic solution, and water to remove internal soluble cell constituents,

thereby generating a coating agent comprising yeast cell wall fractions, as a primary constituent, consisting of cell residue of yeast; and

coating the surface of a solid material with the coating agent to provide a coating thereon.

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